

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 SS-20 L-03 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-03 TRSE-00

USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 PA-04 PRS-01 H-03 DRC-01

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R 110535Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8043

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

CONFIDENTIAL KATHMANDU 1457

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, NP

SUBJECT: PROSPECTS FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL LEGISLATION

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS APRIL 9 AND 10 WITH POLICE
INSPECTOR GENERAL BARAL AND PALACE FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER
CHIRAN THAPA, DCM WAS GIVEN CONFLICTING APPRAISALS OF PROSPECTS
OF EARLY PASSAGE OF NARCOTICS LEGISLATION.

2. BARAL EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT LEGISLATION
WOULD GO THROUGH IN THE MONSOON SESSION OF THE NATIONAL PANCHAYAT.
HIS OFFICE, HE SAID, HAD ONLY RECEIVED DRAFT LEGISLATION APRIL
8 FOR COMMENT AND IT WOULD TAKE TWO WEEKS BEFORE A REPLY COULD
GO BACK TO HOME MINISTRY. HE SAID THAT IF GON WAS ANXIOUS TO
GET LEGISLATION THROUGH IT WOULD HAVE EXPEDITED INTERNAL
CLEARANCE PROCEDURES.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION CHIRAN
THAPA EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT LEGISLATION WOULD GO THROUGH
NEXT SESSION. WE NOTED THAT KING BIRENDRA HAD BEEN PERSONALLY
CONCERNED AT HARSHSHIP FOR PEOPLE OF WESTERN HILLS WHO WOULD BE
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AFFECTED BY BAN ON SALE OF GANJA. PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE HOWEVER

ON SUBSTITUTE CROPS AND HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT THIS
MAJOR OBSTACLE TO LEGISLATION HAD NOW BEEN OVERCOME.

4. COMMENT: IN THESE CONVERSATIONS AND IN OTHERS WE HAVE HAD
WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS RECENTLY WE ARE CONTINUING TO STRESS
IMPORTANCE WHICH USG ATTACHES TO NARCOTICS LEGISLATION. AMBASSADOR
MARCH 29 WROTE LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER TRANSMITTING TO HIM
TEXT OF INCB PRESIDENT GREENFIELD'S ADDRESS AT RECENT SESSION
OF CND. IN THAT LETTER AMBASSADOR RESTATED THE "HIGH IMPORTANCE"
WHICH USG ATTACHES TO EARLY ENACTMENT OF BASIC DRUG LAW.
CARGO

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